

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Tetsuya Ogata

Application No.: 10/593,409

Confirmation No.: 8795

Filed: September 19, 2006

Art Unit: 2627

For: OPTICAL SYSTEM, OPTICAL PICKUP  
APPARATUS, AND OPTICAL DISK  
APPARATUS

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Examiner: Paul W. Huber

**COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance is that the:

“[P]rior art of record considered as a whole fails to teach or suggest an optical system for extracting signal light components from a beam including the signal light components and stray light components, the optical system comprising: a condensing optical element situation (sic) on an optical path of the beam for condensing the beam; **a polarization changing unit including a combination of a polarization changing element and a reflecting part for changing the state of polarization of at least one of the signal light components and the stray light components included in the incident beam transmitted through the condensing optical element; and an extracting element for extracting the signal light components included in the beam transmitted through the polarization changing unit.**”

Applicant understands the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to mean the Examiner finds the independent claim 1 (initially independent claim 20) invention patentable based on the combination of features recited in independent claim 1 (initially independent claim 20). If the Applicant's understanding is incorrect, the Examiner's clarification is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that independent claim 1 (initially independent claim 20) is patentable based on:

"An optical system for extracting signal light components from a beam including the signal light components and stray light components, the optical system comprising: a condensing optical element situated on an optical path of the beam for condensing the beam; a polarization changing unit including a combination of a polarization changing element and a reflecting part for changing the state of polarization of at least one of the signal light components and the stray light components included in the incident beam transmitted through the condensing optical element; and an extracting element for extracting the signal light components included in the beam transmitted through the polarization changing unit."

As usual, the scope of the claims should be interpreted based on the actual language of the allowed claims.

Dated: December 22, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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